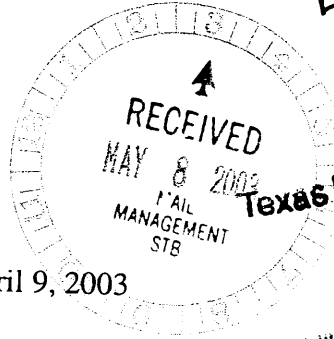


✓ TEXAS NORTHEASTERN RAILROAD  
5300 BROKEN SOUND BLVD., N.W. 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
BOCA RATON, FL 33487  
OFFICE (561) 994-6015  
FAX (561) 994-4629

April 9, 2003



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ORIGINAL

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

APR 17 2003

Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744

RE: Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 163X), *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Lamar and Fannin Counties, TX (Bonham Subdivision between Paris and Bonham, TX)*

Docket No. AB-364 (Sub-No. 8X), *Texas Northeastern Division, Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc.—Discontinuance Exemption—in Lamar and Fannin Counties, TX (Bonham Subdivision between Paris and Bonham, TX)*

Dear Sir or Madam:

On or about April 29, 2003, the Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") and the Texas Northeastern Division, Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. ("TNER") expect to be filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a notice of exemption seeking authority for UP to abandon and TNER to discontinue service over a 33.5-mile line between milepost 94.0, near Paris, TX, and milepost 127.5, east of Bonham, TX, in Lamar and Fannin Counties, TX.

Attached is an Environmental Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental effects, as well as a map of the affected area. We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423, telephone 202-565-1538 and refer to the above Docket No. AB-364 (Sub-No. 5X).

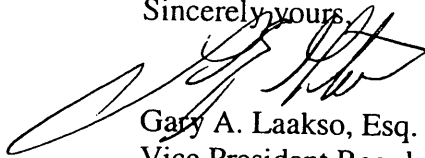
Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to SEA (with a copy to our representative) would be appreciated within 3 weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact our representative directly. Our representatives in this matter are: for

1007 4  
1002 1

Texas Parks and Wildlife  
April 9, 2003  
Page 2

UP, Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Esq., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920, Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 777-2055, and for TNER, Gary A. Laakso, Esq., Vice President Regulatory Counsel, RailAmerica, Inc., 5300 Broken Sound Boulevard N.W., Second Floor, Boca Raton, FL 33487, (561) 994-6015, and Louis E. Gitomer, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F St., N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 638-3307, email at lgitomer@dc.bjllp.com.

Sincerely yours,



Gary A. Laakso, Esq.  
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5300 Broken Sound Boulevard N.W.  
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(202) 638-3307

Enclosure



Review of the project activity as proposed indicates minimal impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

Reviewed: Randy C. Telford

April 28, 2003